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fish, which constitute the principal articles, are imported duty free by a few houses having a monopoly, and are raising the prices beyond the reach of the lower classes who then must resort to inferior food. This monopoly is protected by a prohibitive tax. This lack of their accustomed food I think is the principal cause of the deaths, though other causes are at work.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,  
*Assistant Surgeon U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

*Number and causes of deaths in Ponce jurisdiction (city, playa, and surrounding country) during the two weeks ended June 30, 1900.*

Infectious diseases:		Typhoid fever.....	1
Dysentery.....	16	Diseases of the digestive apparatus.....	111
Malarial fever .....	8	Diseases of the nervous system .....	5
Septicæmia.....	1	Diseases of the circulatory system.....	4
Tuberculosis.....	5	Diseases of the respiratory system.....	7
Leprosy.....	1	Other diseases (anæmia, inanition, etc.)	58
Erysipelas .....	1	Total.....	224
Pyæmia .....	1		
Tetanus.....	1		
Whooping cough.....	3	Births during same period .....	84
Syphilis.....	1		

[Inclosure No. 2.]

*Summary of transactions of Service during the month of June, 1900.*

Total number of deaths reported during June, 1900.....	(a) 482
Total number of deaths reported during June, 1899.....	(a) 168
Total number of births reported during June, 1900.....	(a) 133
Total number of births reported during June, 1899.....	(a) 91
Vessels inspected during June, 1900.....	22
Bills of health issued during June, 1900.....	18
Vessels in quarantine.....	1
Persons whose baggage was disinfected.....	0
Pieces of baggage disinfected.....	0
Vaccination certificates stamped.....	23
Vessels inspected during June, 1899. ....	25
Vessels which sailed during June, 1899.....	32
Immigrants inspected during June, 1900.....	6

<sup>a</sup> These figures are for the city, playa, and surrounding district of Ponce.

PONCE, P. R., July 9, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended July 7, 1900.

Nothing of interest has occurred among the shipping during the week and the general health of Ponce continues as before.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Report on the inspection of the port of Fajardo.*

SAN JUAN, P. R., July 7, 1900.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of June 20. (R. M. W., P. M. C., F. L. G.) authorizing me to visit the port of Fajardo for the

purpose of determining the necessity for a sanitary inspector at that place, I have the honor to inform you that I have inspected that port and to make the following report:

Fajardo, like many of the Porto Rican towns, consists of several divisions, the port and the town and the municipality, which latter comprises 2 other near-by villages, Luquillo and Ceiba, each distant about 5 or 6 miles from the town of Fajardo itself. So far as the shipping interests are concerned, however, the port and the town of Fajardo proper only are of interest.

The port is a small place lying on the northeastern shore of Porto Rico, and comprises a custom-house, 1 or 2 warehouses of sugar and molasses exporters, and a few houses. It has a population of some 300 or 400. There is, properly speaking, no harbor at all, but the configuration of the coast and several outlying islands, some of good size, offers fair protection to vessels, more especially to those of light draft, which can anchor closer in. Vessels of over 15 or 16 feet draft can not get near anchorage, as the beach shoals out for quite a distance. There are no wharves, of course.

This port was for many years one of the ports of entry of the island, but under the military government it was closed on October 1, 1899. A sanitary inspector of the Service was appointed for this port by Surgeon Glennan and he served there till the port was closed. Judging from his reports on file in this office and investigations made by myself. I think there will be at least an average of 2 or 3 vessels arriving there monthly requiring quarantine inspection. The greatest activity will be in the months succeeding the sugar harvest, as this place exports sugar and molasses. It is generally believed by the merchants of Fajardo that the shipping will increase under the provisions of the Foraker bill. The class of shipping which arrived at this port when it was a port of entry consisted of sailing vessels from the United States and islands of the Caribbean Sea and the steamers which regularly call at the other ports of the island.

Inland, in a southerly direction, distant from its port something over a mile, lies the town of Fajardo proper. The 2 places are connected by a good road. The town is beautifully situated among the foothills of the nearby mountains and contains over 3,000 inhabitants. The surrounding country is largely under cultivation and several sugar mills are in view from the town. It is connected by fairly good roads with Humacao on the southwest and with San Juan on the west. It is a typical Porto Rican town, but appeared cleaner than many I have seen, being well situated for drainage. Many houses use cisterns (rain water), but water is also used from the river nearby, being distributed in carts. There is no sewerage system and cesspools are found as elsewhere. The most common diseases prevailing are gastro-intestinal disorders, various anæmias, tuberculosis, and malaria. The following figures for the municipality (about 17,000 population) will give some idea of conditions existent:

May, 1900, total births, 56; total deaths, 41. June, 1900, total births, 40; total deaths, 38. 1892, total births, 552; total deaths, 610. 1894, total births, 540; total deaths, 512. 1896, total births, 702; total deaths, 610. 1898, total births, 449; total deaths, 777.

In the late eighties this town suffered from a severe epidemic of yellow fever, and in the late seventies from one of smallpox, since which it has enjoyed immunity from those diseases. I was informed by a credible observer that during the epidemic of yellow fever above referred to

the native population suffered severely. This is worthy of comment, as there is good reason to believe that the Porto Ricans of the seacoast towns are immunes usually. Vaccination has been well done here under the American military government.

While the shipping of this port is at present of little importance, I deem it wise to appoint, nevertheless, a sanitary inspector there. In the first place there is a probability of an early increase in the shipping, but, aside from this, the average of 2 vessels a month requiring inspection will justify such an appointment. For if there is no inspector at this port an inspector must be sent there from the nearest port which has an inspector, Humacao, and his traveling expenses for making 2 trips monthly will amount to more than the salary of the inspector. Moreover this port has now, under the orders of the Secretary of the Treasury, been opened as a port of entry, and the arrival of vessels can not always be known beforehand that provision may be made for their inspection.

For these reasons I have nominated in the inclosed letter a sanitary inspector at this port, as authorized by my instructions. In consideration of the small amount of labor involved, however, in the discharge of these duties at present, and of the limited amount of our appropriation, I have reduced the salary to \$20 a month. I respectfully request the Bureau's approval of my recommendations.

Respectfully,

C. H. LAVINDER,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Report from San Juan.*

SAN JUAN, P. R., *July 9, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Service at this port and the 5 subports of the island during the month of June, 1900.

Thirty-five vessels were inspected, 1 of which was held in quarantine but allowed to transact business under proper guard. This vessel was the Spanish steamer *Isla de Panay*, which arrived on June 19 from Havana via Central and South American ports.

Twelve pieces of baggage were disinfected during the month, 10 pieces from the *Isla de Panay* and 2 pieces of bedding from the *Ciudad de Cadiz*. There were no persons detained in quarantine during the month.

The weather is now very warm and the rainy season is well advanced. The health of this city continues fair and there are no quarantinable diseases. There were reported during the month 83 deaths and 58 births. The usual list of the causes of deaths is inclosed herewith.

During the month 3 new flush water-closets were installed at the station on Miraflores Island. Repairs were made also to the old plumbing. An extension of 10 feet has been made to the wharf for the small boats, and we now have a depth of 6 feet at low tide. This work was done by the attendants who used some old material on the station. Six piles were driven to a depth of 8 feet in the mud, and a fairly substantial wharf built thereupon. The grounds are still being cleared of the bushes and other vegetation, and some other trees have been set out.

The station was inspected June 7 by Surg. R. M. Woodward.

The officers at the subports report nothing unusual in the shipping, and that their respective ports are free from quarantinable diseases.